

REMARKS

Allowed Claims

Applicant notes that the Examiner has allowed claims 2-5, 8-14, 32-33, 36-37, 45-46, and 49. As such, further discussion with respect to the novelty and non-obviousness of these claims is considered moot.

Claim Amendments

The Examiner indicated that claims 21-22 and 43 were merely objected to, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Consistent with this indication, Applicant has amended claims 21-22 and 43 to be in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, Applicant has also canceled claims 15-20, 23-26, and 38-42 in this paper.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, as indicated in the Action of October 20, 2004.

If any further issues remain, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned so that such issues may be expeditiously resolved and the case move to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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